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## Agenda Item 3 & 10: Geographic names at the top level (New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Work Track 5)

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### Issues

1. Procedural issues: GAC participation in Work Track 5.
2. Substantive issues:
  - (a) Current definitions and procedures in the New gTLD Applicant Guidebook, including country and territory names, city names and specified types of administrative and geographic regions.
  - (b) Community views on these definitions and procedures, including experiences from the last round and possible future directions.

### GAC Action Required

The GAC-appointed Co-Lead of Work Track 5, Olga Cavalli (Argentina), and GAC-nominated members of the Work Track will provide the GAC with an update.

### Procedural Issues

To note that:

- (a) The GAC reiterated its conditions for participating in Work Track 5 on 15 February 2018 as follows:

*E-mail to Co-Chairs of New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group from GAC Chair*

*I am writing to inform you of the outcome of internal GAC discussions following your e-mail of 30 November 2017 concerning the GAC's conditions for participating in Work Track 5 of the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group.*

*The GAC notes the recently circulated terms of reference for WT5.*

*The GAC's expectations of how the WT5 process will be conducted remain as per the conditions for GAC participation previously provided.*

*With regard to agreement on the terms of reference, use of the current Applicant guidebook as the default and the separate advisory role of the GAC, we understand that there is no disagreement.*

*With regard to Work Track outcomes, we understand that, regardless of the specific designation according to GNSO rules, the GAC's expectation is that any agreement in WT5 must have the express support of all participating SOs/ACs, including the GAC.*

*In addition to appointing Argentina as one of WT5 Co-Leads, the GAC has appointed six members in accordance with its internal procedures: Brazil, Colombia, European Commission, India, Nepal, United States. We ask that the Co-Leads note that these members will (in accordance with existing GAC procedures) represent agreed GAC positions where these exist,*

and that the Co-Leads take this into account, but without prejudice to other GAC members expressing their views.

These points are provided for the record and for your information. The GAC looks forward to continuing its participation in Work Track 5 and contributing towards mutually agreed outcomes.

(b) Work Track 5 will be meeting at ICANN 61 on Wednesday 14 March 0830 – 1015.

(c) There are currently 16 GAC Members and 29 Observers in Work Track 5.

### **Substantive Issues**

These will have developed further by ICANN 61 as there will have been at least another two WT5 meetings. Olga Cavalli circulated to the GAC on 14 February 2018, for comment a group working document which covered:

- The current range of geographic terms defined in the current Applicant Guidebook (AGB) including full country and territory names, 2- and 3-code equivalents and other terms including cities (capital and other) and regions.
- Positive and negative experiences in applying the AGB rules to date.
- Suggestions on possible future rules.

The most recent working document is available [here](#) (as Google docs) and on the [WT5 website](#).

### **Current Position**

#### **WT5 Terms of Reference**

Work Track 5 is a sub-group of the GNSO PDP on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures. Its scope is defined by its terms of reference as follows:

*Work Track 5 will focus on developing proposed recommendations regarding geographic names at the top level, including both ASCII and IDN forms. WT5 will (i) consider what constitutes a geographic name in the specific context of the New gTLD Program; (ii) analyze (a) 2007 GNSO Policy Recommendations on the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains; and (b) relevant rules contained in the 2012 Guidebook, such as the Geographic Names Review procedure, Geographic Names Extended Evaluation, and Objection Procedures; and (iii) take into account previous work related to geographic names that the community may have completed.*

*Broader discussions about the remit of SOs and ACs, as well as the allocation of second and third level geographic names, are specifically out of scope for this Work Track.*

#### **WT5 Co-Leads**

GAC: Olga Cavalli (Argentina)

ccNSO: Annebeth Lange

GNSO: Martin Sutton

ALAC: Javier Rúa-Jovet

## Further Information

[GAC resources](#) including previous inputs on geographic names policies

[PDP on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures \(Plenary\)](#)

[PDP Work Track 5 \(Geographic Names\)](#)

## Document Administration

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